

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EUR-25 IO-12 DPW-01 AID-20 OMB-01 RSR-01 /141 W

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R 140432 Z MAY 73 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1614

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8435

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 WEEKLY CEASEFIRE OVERVIEW, MAY 6-13

THE FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON FROM NHA TRANG 12 MAY 73 REPEATED TO
YOU FOR YOUR ACTION AND INFO QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0496

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 WEEKLY CEASE- FIRE OVERVIEW, MAY 6-13

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MILITARY REGION II DURING THE 15 TH WEEK
OF THE POST PARIS AGREEMENT ERA CONTINUED THE RELATIVELY CALM
PATTERN OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK. ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENTS AND
OTHER CONTACTS AVERAGED ABOUT TEN PER DAY, THOUGH THE ARVN'S
REPORTING ON THESE MATTERS IS OFT TIMES INCOMPLETE. NORTHERN
BINH DINH CONTINUED AS THE LOCUS OF ABOUT HALF OF WHAT ACTIVITY
THERE WAS AND AS THE RECIPIENT OF ALMOST ALL OF THE " TRAIN-
ING AND REHEARSAL" AIR STRIKES IN THE MR. ARVN COMMANDERS OF
THE 22 ND DIVISION UNITS DEPLOYED IN NORTHERN BINH DINH RECENTLY
ASSERTED THAT COMMUNIST FORCES THERE ARE FLAGGING. THEY
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SAY THAT CURRENT SHORTAGES OF ENEMY MANPOWER AND SUPPLIES ARE ALLOWING GVN FORCES TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT GAINS OF TERRITORY WHICH THE ENEMY TOOK IN THE SPRING OF 1972 OFFENSIVE, AND HAS HELD SINCE. RANGER FORCES, ESPECIALLY, ARE WINNING KUDOS FOR THEIR OPERATIONS WHICH ARE DESCRIBED AS GRADUALLY DRIVING VC UNITS OUT OF THE TRADITIONALLY TENACIOUSLY- DEFENDED COASTAL PLAIN OF EASTERN TAM QUAN AND HOAI NHON DISTRICTS. THIS IS A MORE OPTIMISTIC ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN BINH DINH THAN WE HAVE HEARD FOR SOME TIME.

2. THE ICCS FINALLY CARRIED OUT THE TEMPORARY EVACUATION OF DUC CO OVER THE LAST WEEKEND AND THERE CONTINUES TO BE CONSIDERATION OF DOING THE SAME WITH THE POINT OF ENTRY TEAM AT BEN HET, THOUGH BEN HET DOES NOT RPT NOT EEM TO HAVE SUFFERED THE HEALTH PROBLEMS WHICH WERE THE RATIONALE FOR WITHDRAWING FROM DUC CO. THE ICCS ALSO APPEARS TO BE DETERMINED, HOWEVER, TO REDEPLOY TO DUC CO WHEN THE HEALTH PROBLEMS AT THE SITE ARE ELIMINATED; IT IS MAINTAINING LIAISON WITH THE PRG THERE, AND SENDING IN SUPPLIES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES WITH THAT END IN VIEW. NEVERTHELESS, WITH THE RAINS ABOUT TO START AND IN VIEW OF THE INDONESIANS' GENERAL RELUCTANCE SINCE THE APRIL 7 QUANG TRI HELICOPTER INCIDENT TO CONTINUE IN ICCS SITES WITHIN PRG TERRITORY, IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE ICCS RETURNS TO DUC CO.

3. OTHERWISE, THE ICCS CONTINUED ITS NORMAL ACTIVITIES, THOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT BEDEVILED BY PROBLEMS WITH PA& E, FOR EXAMPLE, DEMANDS TO SURRENDER VEHICLES. IN ADDITION, DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ICCS AND THE PRG ON THE MODALITIES OF ICCS FLIGHT OVER PRG TERRITORY WHICH HAVE CURTAILED ICCS ACTIVITIES IN OTHER REGIONS HAVE ALSO AFFECTED THE ICCS IN MR II. THE PRISONER EXCHANGES WHICH WERE TO TAKE PLACE IN KHANH HOA, KONTUM AND PHU YEN HAVE BEEN POSTPONED BY THE GVN BECAUSE OF THE ICCS' S INABILITY TO BE PRESENT AT THE SITES. IF THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS CONTINUES IT WILL CAUSE THE ICCS TO SEVERELY CURTAIL ONE PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY WHICH IT HAS THUS FAR BEEN ABLE SUCCESSFULLY TO CARRY OUT.

4. IN SUM, THE PAST WEEK IN MR-2 HAS BEEN ONE OF RELATIVE CALM WITH AT LEAST THE NON- FIRING PROVISIONS OF THE AGREEMENT BEING LARGELY OBSERVED. THE PEACE- KEEPING MACHINERY, CONSISTING OF

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RUMP TPJMC AND A DIVIDED ICCS, CONTINUES TO HAVE ONLY MINIMAL IMPACT. ENGL QUNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

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